

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7024  
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Emmitt H. Simon, Jr. of  
Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of  
the passing of Emmitt H. Simon, Jr.,; and

WHEREAS, Emmitt H. Simon, Jr., was an exemplary public servant and consummate  
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in  
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon served with acumen and alacrity as a school administrator and  
athletic director in the Memphis City School system, where he earned the respect of his peers  
and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Emmitt H. Simon, Jr., was born in Memphis on August 28, 1934, to Emmitt  
H. Simon, Sr., and Alice Shaw; and

WHEREAS, during his formative years, Emmitt Simon attended Manassas High School,  
where he played football for three years and made All-City two years; his skill and prowess on  
the field were rewarded with an athletic scholarship to Southern University in Baton Rouge,  
Louisiana, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree; his thirst for  
knowledge extended beyond Baton Rouge, however, as he conducted post-graduate work in  
Administration and Supervision at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon's coaching career was marked by extraordinary success in both  
football and track; affectionately known by the monikers of "Monk" and "Tank," he began his  
coaching career as the Assistant Football Coach at Manassas High School and helped lead its  
football team to three city championships; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving Manassas, Mr. Simon went on to become the Head Football  
Coach at Douglas High School and led the team to its first football championship in the school's

history; joining the Southside High School coaching staff in the early 1970s, he led the track team to capture second place honors in the state; and

WHEREAS, Emmitt Simon, Jr., served as the Assistant Principal of Craigmont High School for nine years, Principal of Cypress Junior High School for eight years, and the school system's Athletic Director for seven years; and

WHEREAS, during the summers, Mr. Simon worked for the Memphis Park Commission for more than twenty-seven years, including serving as director of the summer lunch program recognized as the Best Lunch Program in America in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon's expertise was highly valued by the Bluff City Coaches and Officials Association, which he helped charter; he was a state track official for twenty years and a high school and college football referee for nearly ten years; and

WHEREAS, local and national organizations lauded his achievements, as shown by his induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame, receipt of the Award of Merit by the NIAAA and TSSAA, induction into the Southern University Hall of Fame, and garnering of the All-American Football Player title; in July of 2005, Emmitt Simon received the Consistency Award presented by the Southern University Alumni Federation for his conscientious support of the college; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon manifested his love for Christ as an active and devout member of Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Emmitt Simon always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Emmitt Simon married Vernisteen Lloyd on June 18, 1955, in Alexandria, Louisiana, and they were partners in love and life for forty-three years; to this union were born two children, Michael Keith and Lisa Michelle; and

WHEREAS, while his wife, Vernisteen, preceded him in death, many are left to mourn his passing and to cherish precious memories of a life well-lived. Emmitt Simon leaves his children, Michael Keith Simon and Lisa Michelle Bates and husband Gerald; his mother, Alice Shaw; his stepmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Simon; his sister, Dr. Camille Simon Honesty, and husband Edward; a grandson, Gerald Keith Lloyd Bates; a brother-in-law, Alex G. Lloyd, and his wife, Sarah; a sister-in-law, Judy Franklin, and her husband, Armstead; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Emmitt Simon also leaves a devoted friend, Alice Faye Harmon, who cared for him, along with members of The Loafers, Inc., the Manassas Alumni Association, and the Manassas High Class of 1952; and

WHEREAS, Emmitt H. Simon, Jr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional athlete, coach, administrator, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Emmitt H. Simon, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Emmitt H. Simon, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.